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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1550  
INFO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 000115

SIPDIS

DEPT PASS TO EUR/ERA:ELIZABETH KONICK  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA PASS TO AMCONSUL ADANA  
AMEMBASSY ASTANA PASS TO AMCONSUL ALMATY  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PASS TO AMEMBASSY PODGORICA  
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PASS TO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2020/02/18

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [EUN](#) [GR](#)

SUBJECT: Greek Views on February 2010 FAC

REF: ELIZABETH KONICK EMAIL 02/18/2010; 10 ATHENS 109

CLASSIFIED BY: George Frowick, Political Counselor; REASON: 1.4(B),  
(D)

¶1. (C) On February 18, Poloff discussed Ref A points on U.S. positions on the February 22 FAC (Foreign Affairs Council) with Alexandros Ioannidis, European Correspondent in the MFA All Security and Defense Policy (ESDP) Division. Ioannidis said the FAC's agenda would focus on Iran, Ukraine (over lunch), Afghanistan, and possibly the Libya-Swiss visa disagreement, and Belarus. Haiti might be discussed either in the FAC or the GAC (General Affairs Council). Ioannidis stated that, for the coming year, Greece's foreign policy engagement outside of its immediate region would be "substantially limited" by the domestic economic crisis and deteriorating government finances.

¶2. (C) IRAN: Greek views on Iran largely remained largely unchanged (with a preference towards UN-sanctioned action) but with a "bit more willingness to be aggressive." The EU was increasingly unwilling to wait for China to come around on Iran sanctions. Greece would support any EU consensus on sanctions.

¶3. (C) UKRAINE: The FAC would discuss post-elections cooperation with Ukraine over lunch, and HR Ashton wanted a "free exchange of views." Ioannidis noted that Greece agreed that the election had been largely free and fair, and Prime Minister Papandreou had congratulated Yanukovich on his election victory, but also said Greece thought it important to closely monitor Russian actions and views towards the new government.

¶4. (C) HAITI: Ioannidis said the Greeks preferred any Haiti discussion to be held in the GAC. He noted that Deputy Foreign Minister Kouvelis led an aid mission to Haiti on February 8 and met with President Preval and the Haitian Prime Minister. Greece wanted more support and attention towards the Dominican Republic, which as Haiti's neighbor was shouldering a substantial spillover burden for relief efforts. Greece also remained ready to second 30 officers to MINUSTAH. (COMMENT: Per Ref B, UNDPKO already decided not to pursue the Greek offer since the small contingent would not be self-sufficient. END COMMENT.) Lastly, Greece would urge its EU partners to ensure that, per UNESCO guidelines, Haiti's cultural heritage was preserved during reconstruction.

15. (C) AFGHANISTAN, LIBYA-SWITZERLAND, BELARUS: Ioannidis said a few minutes would be devoted to an announcement about the EU Special Representative in Afghanistan (EUSRA). Also, the FAC might discuss the ongoing dispute between Libya and Switzerland, which recently resulted in Libya turning back all EU nationals at its borders. Poland wanted to include a discussion about Belarus' treatment of its Polish minority.  
MCCARTHY